

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (canceled).

2. (currently amended): The printer as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein the first detector and the second detector are integrally connected by a connecting member.

3. (currently amended): The printer as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein the first detector and the second detector are movable to change the predetermined amount of paper.

4. (previously presented): The printer as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first detector and the second detector are movable to change the predetermined amount of paper.

5. (currently amended): The printer as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 10,
wherein a gap is provided in the paper near end detecting means through which paper drawn from the roll is conveyed after one of the detectors gets disengaged with the end face of the roll of paper.

Claims 6-9 (canceled).

10. (currently amended): A printer ~~as claimed in claim 7~~, comprising:
a paper holder comprising first and second guide portions for positioning a roll of paper,
the first guide portion being disposed at a position where the roll of paper is to be retained as the
roll of paper is reduced in diameter when the printer is in a first installation state and the second
guide portion being disposed at a position where the roll of paper is to be retained as the roll of
paper is reduced in diameter when the printer is in a second installation state; and
paper near end detecting means configured to detect that the amount of remaining paper
is below a predetermined amount, the paper near end detecting means comprising a first detector
and a second detector disposed to be engageable with an end face of the roll of paper, and a
sensor which senses operations of the first detector and the second detector,
wherein the first and second guide portions are operable to hold a roll of paper when the
printer is oriented in the first and second installation states, respectively, and
the first detector is operable to engage an end face of the roll of paper when the printer is
oriented in the first installation state and is disengaged from the end face of the roll of paper
when the roll of paper is nearly depleted, and is disengaged from the end face of the roll of paper
prior to the second detector as the roll of paper is reduced in diameter when the printer is
oriented in the second installation state, and
the second detector is operable to engage the end face of the roll of paper when the
printer is oriented in the second installation state and is disengaged from the end face of the roll
of paper when the roll of paper is nearly depleted, and is disengaged from the end face of the roll

of paper prior to the first detector as the roll of paper is reduced in diameter when the printer is oriented in the first installation state, and

the first detector and the second detector are disposed within an area that is defined by three surfaces, the three surfaces being a hypothetical plane formed by a locus of a movement of the center axis of the roll of paper as the roll of paper is reduced in diameter and retained by the first guide portion, a hypothetical plane formed by a locus of a movement of the center axis of the roll of paper as the roll of paper is reduced in diameter and retained by the second guide portion, and an inner surface of the paper holder defined between the first guide portion and the second guide portion, and

~~wherein~~ said first and second detectors remain static when the printer orientation is changed between the first and second installation states.

Claims 11 and 12 (canceled).